

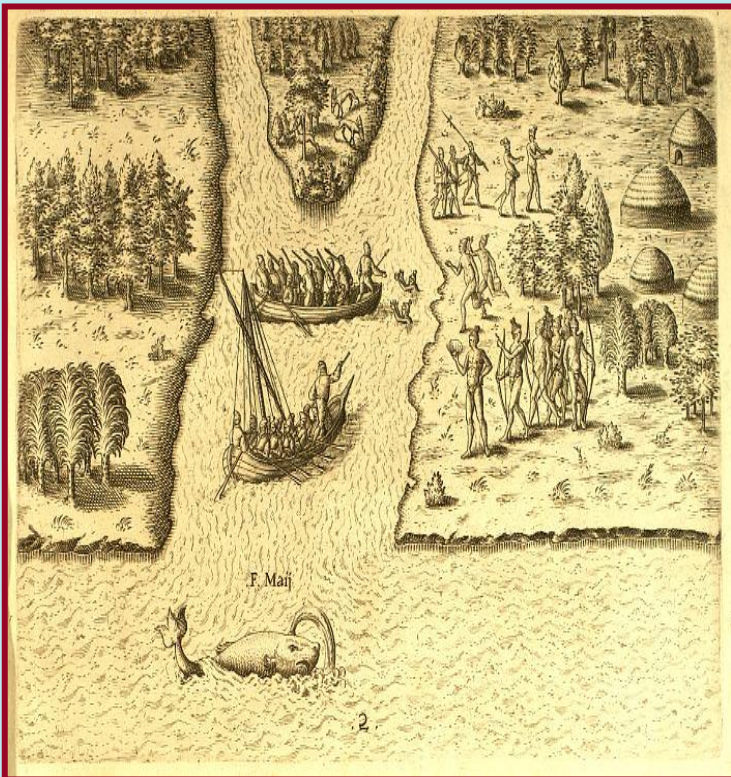
# The River .....

**The St. Johns River is an ancient intra-coastal lagoon system.**

**As sea levels dropped, barrier islands became an obstacle that prevented water from flowing to the ocean. Instead, the water collected in the flat valley and slowly meandered northward for about 300 miles forming the St. Johns River.**

*The River* was of significant importance in the life of the first inhabitants.

The Timucuan Indians called the river *Welaka* meaning chain lake. They lived along it, fished from it and glided their dugout canoes upon it. In the early 1500's, the Spaniards named it Rio de Corrientes (currents). In 1562, the French arrived at the mouth of the River on May 1st, established Fort Caroline and named the river *Riviere de Mai*. In 1565, the Spanish captured Fort Caroline, massacred the French and named the river *Rio de San Mateo*. In 1578, the Spaniards again re-named the river as *Rio de San Juan* after their local mission. When by the Treaty of Paris in 1763 Florida was ceded to the English, the English translated *Rio de San Juan* to *St. John's River*. Florida became a U.S. territory in 1821 and, on March 3, 1845, when Florida became the 27<sup>th</sup> state to join the United States of America, the apostrophe in St. Johns was dropped.



**Riviere de Mai by Le Moyne 1563**

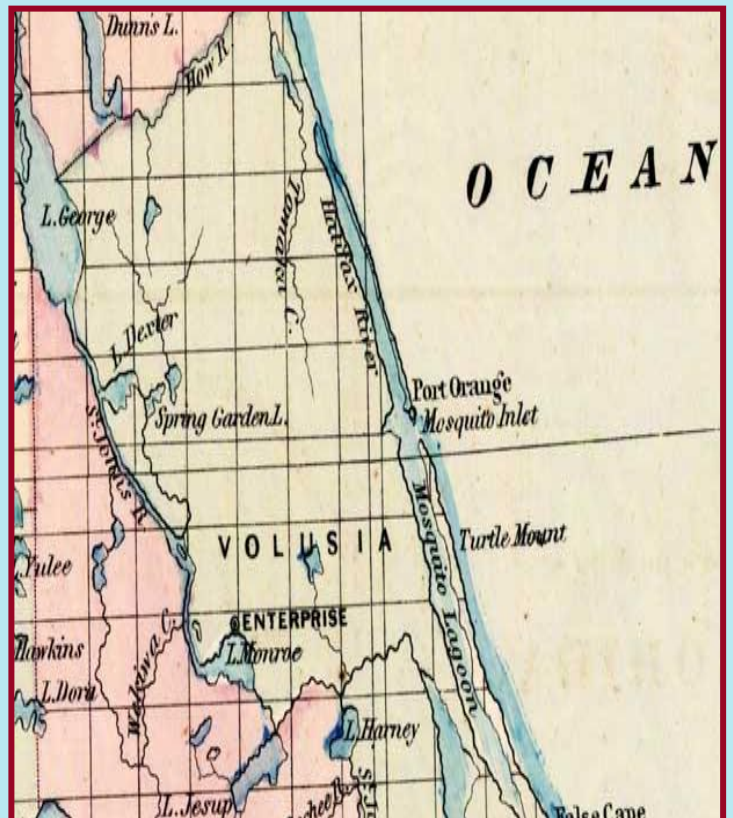


**Rio de Corrientes by Chaves 1584**



Figure 12. DeBrahm's 1765 Map of Florida (courtesy Florida State Archives)

**1765 William Gerard DeBrahm's Map of Florida**



**1823 Charles Vignoles' Map of Monroe's Lake**

# The St. Johns River.....

In the last half of the 19th century, the phrase “**FLORIDA FEVER**” was used to describe the winter months. The balmy climate, the wild beauty of the St. Johns River with its shores densely bordered by a forest of lush flowering foliage, abundant hunting and fishing, and inexpensive land costs would bring thousands of tourists and homesteaders to Florida. The River was the water highway for explorers and, with the onset of the steamboat lines, the people headed inland from the River and developed farms and plantations, villages sprang up, and new businesses were created to support the steamboat industry. Steamboats were a faster and cheaper way to transport crops to market, to deliver the mail, and to have supplies delivered. The alternative to steamboats was a difficult trip from the ocean’s shore on foot or by horse through swamps and woods. The **STEAMBOAT ERA** would greatly contribute to the development of the State of Florida. Due to the spread of the railroad system, construction of highways and the use of motorized vehicles, the successful and romanticized **STEAMBOAT ERA** in Florida would come to an end in the early 1900’s.



## From Whitney’s Florida Pathfinder: 1876 Whitney’s maps of the St. Johns River, Florida

### St. John’s River.

This grand sheet of water is created by the overflow of the numerous springs and swamps in the southern portion of the State; it flows, unlike any other river in the United States, directly north for over three hundred miles, when turning abruptly to the east, it empties into the Atlantic ocean. Many portions of the river are six miles wide, and north of Lake George no part is less than one mile in width; at Palatka the river becomes narrower. The St. John’s river is credited with carrying a larger volume of water than the Rio Grand, which river is one thousand miles long, and in point of width the St. John’s river is the largest in America.

The many cozy retreats located upon the banks of the St. John’s are of universal attraction, and during the winter season thousands of tourists from every section are here to be found, forgetful of all business cares, enjoying the pleasures of the trip and complimenting the salubrity of the Florida climate.

On the banks of the St. John’s are to be seen many fine orange groves bedecked with the golden fruit; one may also observe the Magnolia, Pride of India, the Pine and other species of trees festooned with long skeins of moss gracefully descending and nearly touching the water’s edge; to witness this sight and to feel and inhale the soft, balmy breezes, scented with

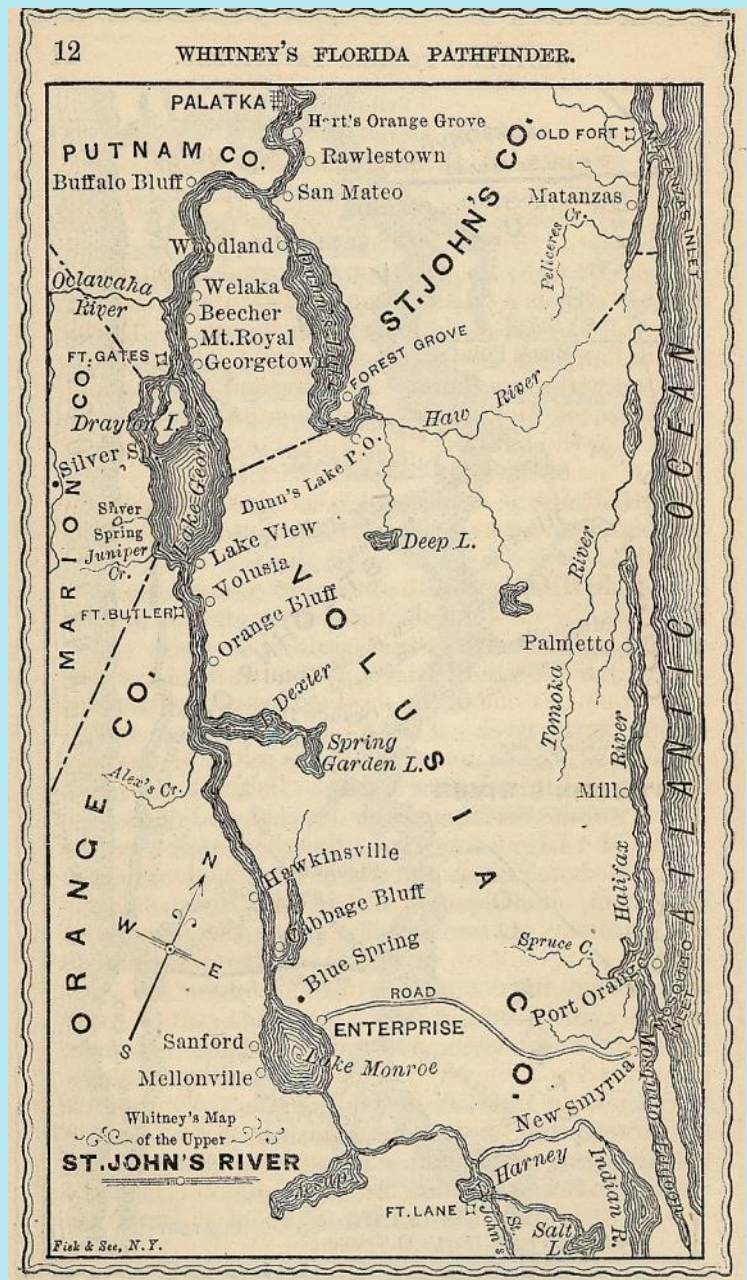
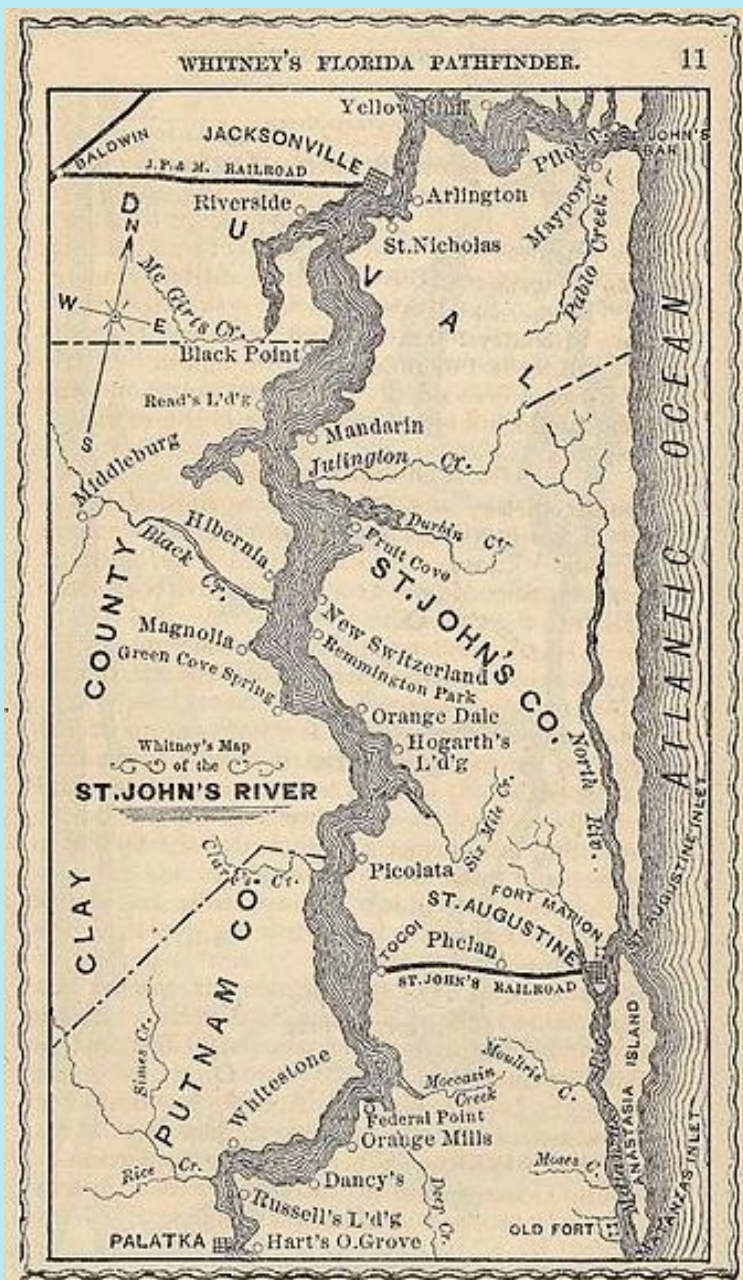
the odor of the Magnolia and yellow Jessamine, is a coincidence not presented by any other section of the United States. There is a charm attached to the incidents of a trip upon this sheet of water—apparently a succession of lakes—that one will not soon forget, especially when contrasted with a winter trip upon the Hudson with its cold, bleak winds.

St. John’s Bluff, near the mouth of the St. John’s river, is the supposed site where the French Huguenots under Laudonniere erected Fort Caroline, which was attacked by Menendez in 1565, when nearly all the inmates were massacred.

### Localities on the St. John’s River.

Showing distances from Jacksonville. Sailing south is termed GOING UP the river. Points marked with a star\* are on the right going up.

|                          | Miles. |                        | Miles. |
|--------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|
| Arlington .....          | 3      | PALATKA* .....         | 75     |
| St. Nicholas .....       | 3      | Hart’s Orange Grove .. | 76     |
| Riverside* .....         | 3      | Rawlestown .....       | 77     |
| Black Point* .....       | 12     | San Mateo .....        | 79     |
| Read’s Landing* .....    | 13     | Buffalo Bluff* .....   | 83     |
| Mandarin .....           | 16     | Oclawaha River* .....  | 100    |
| Fruit Cove .....         | 19     | Welaka .....           | 100    |
| Hibernia* .....          | 23     | Beecher .....          | 101    |
| New Switzerland .....    | 26     | Mt. Royal .....        | 105    |
| Remington Park .....     | 27     | Georgetown .....       | 123    |
| Magnolia* .....          | 29     | Lake View .....        | 140    |
| Green Cove Spring* ..... | 31     | Volusia .....          | 144    |
| Orange Dale .....        | 34     | Fort Butler* .....     | 145    |
| Hogarth’s Landing .....  | 35     | Orange Bluff .....     | 147    |
| Picolata .....           | 41     | Hawkinsville* .....    | 174    |
| TOCOI .....              | 46     | Cabbage Bluff .....    | 175    |
| Federal Point .....      | 58     | Blue Spring .....      | 180    |
| Orange Mills .....       | 60     | Sanford* .....         | 204    |
| Dancy’s Wharf .....      | 62     | Mellonville* .....     | 205    |
| Whitestone* .....        | 66     | Enterprise .....       | 210    |
| Russell’s Landing .....  | 69     | Salt Lake .....        | 275    |



The St. Johns River runs NORTH 310 miles from its headwaters to its mouth. It is the longest river in Florida and one of the few rivers in the United States that flows north. The St. Johns drops in elevation less than 30 feet from its headwaters to its mouth; about one inch per mile. It moves about 1/3 of a mile each hour making it a slow-moving river. Two tides each day go up the River as far as the City of Astor.

### BASINS OF THE ST. JOHNS RIVER

**Upper Basin** – from the River's source in the Indian River to the confluence of the St. Johns and the Econlockhatchee Rivers in Seminole County.

**Middle Basin** – north through Lakes Jesup, Harney, Monroe, and George.

**Lower Basin** – heading north from Lake George to the River's mouth through the jetties at Mayport to the Atlantic Ocean.



UPPER BASIN



MIDDLE BASIN



LOWER BASIN

See Descriptions of Basins <http://www.sjrwmd.com/waterbodies/>

## UPPER BASIN

The Upper Basin is the headwaters or source of the St. Johns River and is a wide 20,000 acre marshy swamp in Indian River County. The marsh is 20 miles west of Vero Beach in the southwest corner of Indian River County. It is difficult to navigate being shallow, narrow, and marshy. The River banks are not well defined and the water is filled with cypress trees, wet prairies, and tree hammocks. Tiny streams come together and begin to flow north. <http://floridaswater.com/itsyourlagoon/>

## SCENES OF FORT DRUM MARSH



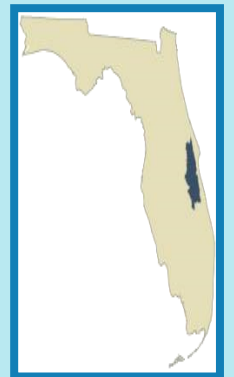
## BLUE CYPRESS LAKE



**At the Headwaters of the St. Johns River**

[http://www.protectingourwater.org/watersheds/map/upper\\_st\\_johns/](http://www.protectingourwater.org/watersheds/map/upper_st_johns/)

## INDIAN RIVER LAGOON IN THE UPPER BASIN



[www.MarineDiscoveryCenter.org](http://www.MarineDiscoveryCenter.org).

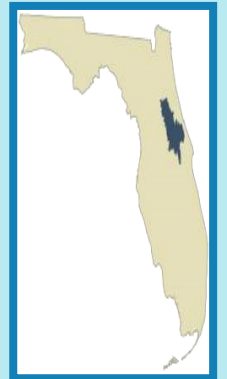
## MIDDLE BASIN

The Middle Basin begins at Lake Monroe. The Indian name for Lake Monroe was *WEPOLOKSE* meaning round lake. The Spanish called the lake *VALDEZ*. The lake was first referred to as Monroe's Lake on the 1823 map of Charles Vignoles, which he based on an 1822 survey performed by Captain John Eatton Le Conte (engineer).

Until reaching Lake Harney, the River is a sluggishly-moving stream; it then becomes more of a river and flows to a sand bar at Enterprise at Lake Monroe. Lake Monroe is at the midpoint of the entire river; it is 15 miles square, encompasses 9,406 acres, and is one of the largest lakes on the River. The River deepens at this point and widens as it heads west. The River is fed by rainfall, watersheds, rivers, and the Floridan Aquifer. It was in the Middle Basin that the banks of the River became more defined and were more navigable. Lake Monroe was the last point heading south on the River to which larger steamboats could navigate with relative ease. The larger steamships ran from Jacksonville to the deep east end of Lake Monroe; at this point cargo and people were transferred to smaller boats to make their way through to Rockledge. <http://sjrwmd.com/middlestjohnsriver/>

*In present day, the opposite is true; the River is dredged from its headwaters to Sanford. Large boats do not travel north of Lake Monroe as the channels are unmarked and shallow.*

## LAKE MONROE



[http://www.unf.edu/floridahistoryonline/Bartram/January\\_1766/7jan1766.htm](http://www.unf.edu/floridahistoryonline/Bartram/January_1766/7jan1766.htm)

*Boaters traveling upriver on the St. Johns River enter Lake Monroe by passing under the bridge of Interstate-4 near Orlando.*

*The historic springs that the explorer John Bartram visited and the town of Enterprise are on the left in this photograph, the north and east shores of the lake; the more populous Sanford is on the right (west).*

## LAKE GEORGE



[Wikimedia Commons](#)

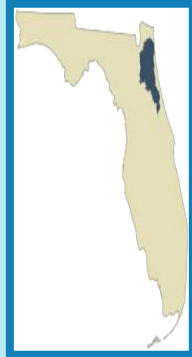
## LOWER BASIN

The River enters the Lower Basin at the northern edge of Lake George. The Lake's width varies from 200 to 1500 feet, covers about 75 square miles, and is the longest lake on the River, and the second largest in the State. The River flows north to Jacksonville where it narrows, turns east and flows to its mouth in the Atlantic Ocean by the jetties at Mayport. Jacksonville is where the era of steamboat travel on the St. Johns River began. <http://www.sjrwmd.com/lowerstjohnsriver/>

## THE JETTIES AT MAYPORT - THE LOWER BASIN

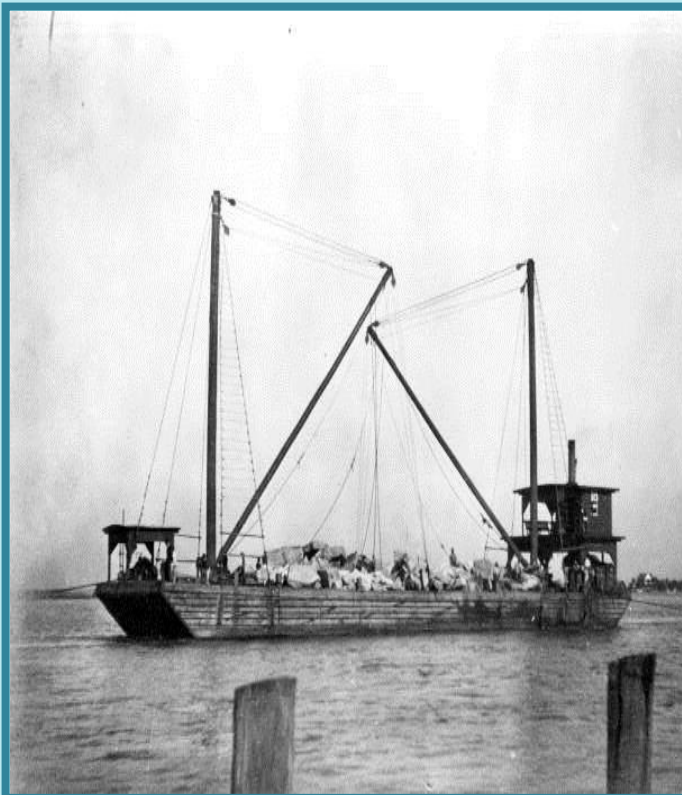


[www.forums.floridasportsman.com](http://www.forums.floridasportsman.com)



[www.jaxshells.org](http://www.jaxshells.org)

See *Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers to the Secretary of War for United States Army Corps of Engineers...Washington DC October 20, 1879 Part 2 Appendix I 7, Page 766 Construction of jetties at Mayport.*



<http://floridamemory.com/items/show/25764>

Derrick barge in Mayport, Florida loaded with rock brought from North and South Carolina by train to be used as fill.

The rock is being taken to cap the Mayport jetties by a contractor to the Corps of Engineers.



<http://floridamemory.com/items/show/25768>

Engineer on an observation tower during creation of jetty in Mayport 1900.

Accompanying note: "'Station 7 on North Beach' range 1 North jetty (engineers used target towers to make sure the jetty went straight and in the right direction)."

## LOWER BASIN



<http://seankingstons.blogspot.com/2010/02/st-johns-river-map-florida.html>



**JETTIES**  
**Mayport Naval Station**



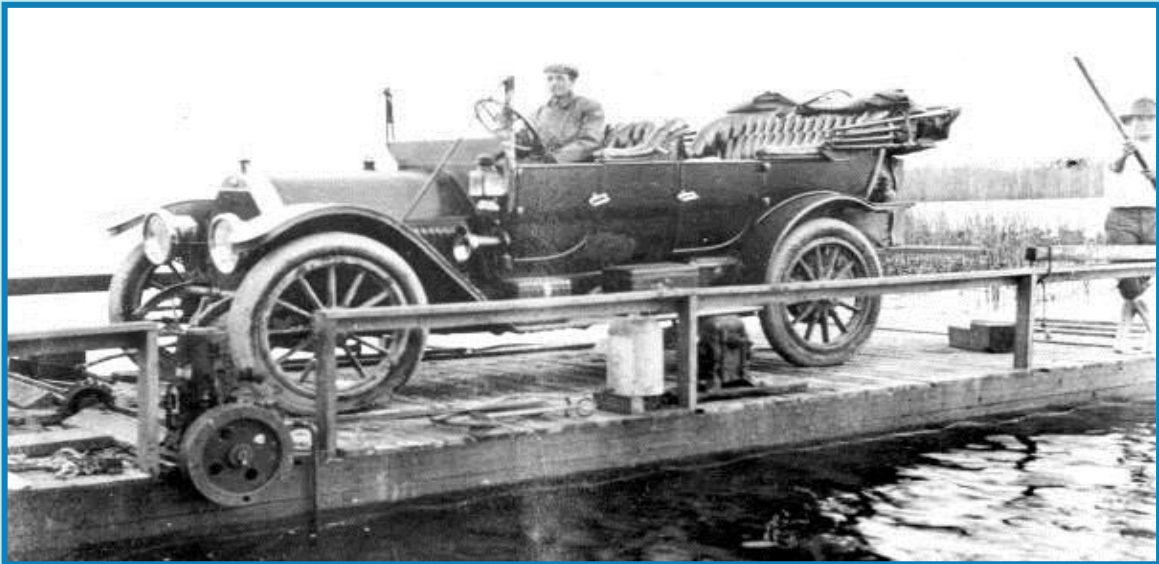
**St. Johns River Inlet, Mayport**

[www.marinas.com](http://www.marinas.com)

## PHOTOS LAKE MONROE



**Horse-drawn conveyances wait on steamboat passengers  
Steamboat landing at Sanford, Florida 1884  
From *St. Johns River Steamboats* by Edward A. Mueller  
<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/NF00000105/00001/109j>**



**Automobile transported by ferry, on the St. Johns River - Lake Monroe, Florida...  
Photographed on February 14, 1912.  
Ferry was located at the mouth of Lake Monroe on the St. Johns River,  
27 miles from Orlando on the road to DeLand.  
<http://floridamemory.com/items/show/36230>**

\* \* \* \* \*





## LAGNIAPPE.....

### **The Discovery of America** By John Fiske

<http://www.hellenicaworld.com/USA/Literature/JohnFiske/en/TheDiscoveryOfAmerica1.html>

**"Spanish-Indian Relationships: Synoptic History and Archaeological Evidence, 1500–1763". In Tacachale: Essays on the Indians of Florida and Southeastern Georgia during the Historic Period.** By Hale G. Smith and Marc Gottlob (1978). Edited By Jerald Milanich and Samuel Proctor. Gainesville, Florida: University Presses of Florida

"Juan Ponce de León is usually credited with the discovery of Florida, although he may not have been the first Spaniard to reach Florida, as he reported an encounter with a Spanish-speaking Indian on the southwest coast of the peninsula later in his voyage. Ponce de León landed on Florida on April 2, 1513, somewhere on the northwest coast of the present state of Florida, and claimed the land for Spain. He named the new land *la Florida*, Spanish for *flowery*." ISBN 978-0-8130-0535-5

**"The Early History of the St. John's River"** By Ed Winn on Google books.

"The Timuca and Calosa (300,000 native Indians) were doomed to distinction from the Spanish beginning with Ponce de Leon due to spreading of disease, combat, or sold into slavery, etc."

**"Ponce De Leon Never Searched for the Fountain of Youth"** By Matthew Shaer, Smithsonian Magazine June 2013 from Smithsonian.com

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Ponce-De-Leon-Never-Searched-for-the-Fountain-of-Youth-208345831.html>

<http://www.history.com/news/the-myth-of-ponce-de-leon-and-the-fountain-of-youth>

### **DeSoto's Florida Landing**

<http://www.floridahistory.com/inset444.html> <http://www.floridahistory.com/inset33.html#after>

### **Divers Voyages Touching the Discovery of America and the Islands Adjacent**

By Richard Hakluyt, Giovanni da Verrazzano, Jean Ribault, Thomas Hacket *THE TRUE AND LAST DISCOVERIE OF FLORIDA made by Captain John Ribault in the yeere 1562* Page 91

<http://books.google.com/books?id=imcMAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

"The True and Last Discovery of Florida made by Capt. John Ribaud, in the year 1562 dedicated to a great nobleman of France and translated into Englishe by one Thomas Hackit. This is Ribaut's journal which seems not to exist in the original. The translation is contained in the rare black letter tract of Hakluyt called *Voyages London 1582* a copy of which is in the library of Harvard College. It has been reprinted by the Hakluyt Society. The first appeared in 1563 under the title of *The Whole and True Discovery of Terra Florida (Englishe The Florishing Land)*. This is of extreme rarity. "

**The French arrive in Florida. May 1, 1562.** <http://www.coj.net/commemorate450/docs/450th-32312a.aspx>

**Pioneers of France in the New World** By Francis Parkman 1865 Page 33 Jean Ribault

<http://books.google.com/books?id=XIw-AAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

### **Ribault – Menendez: Huguenot Massacre at Fort Caroline**

<http://alastar-packer.hubpages.com/hub/Ribault-the-Huguenot-Massacre-at-Fort-Caroline>

**The French in Florida (and elsewhere along the Gulf Coast)** By Captain Rick Rhodes

<http://richardservis.tripod.com/thenonfictionreadermagazine/id12.html>

### **Jacques Le Moyne Engravings**

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/photos/native/lemoyne/lemoyne.htm>



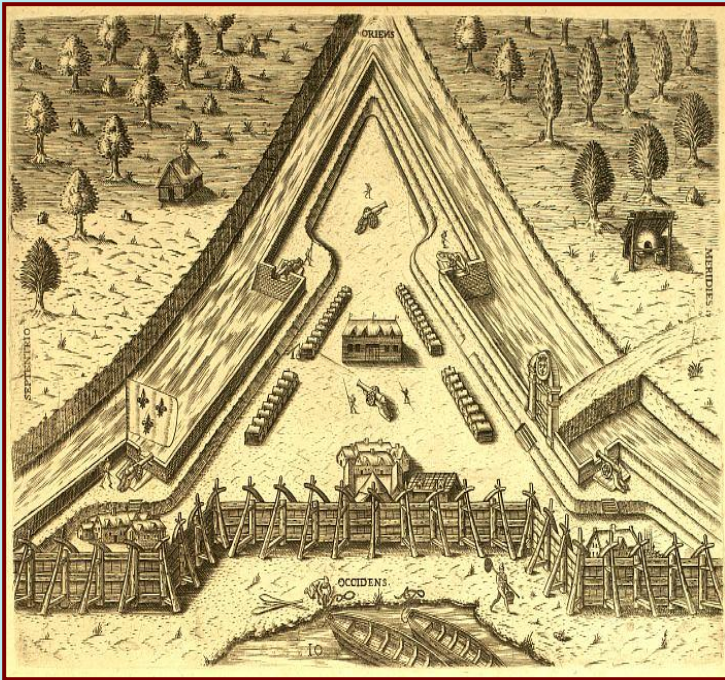
**Jacques Le Moyne**

Athore, son of the Timucuan king Saturiwa, and Rene de Laudonnière at the column with French Coat of Arms erected by Jean Ribault at Fort Caroline in 1562.



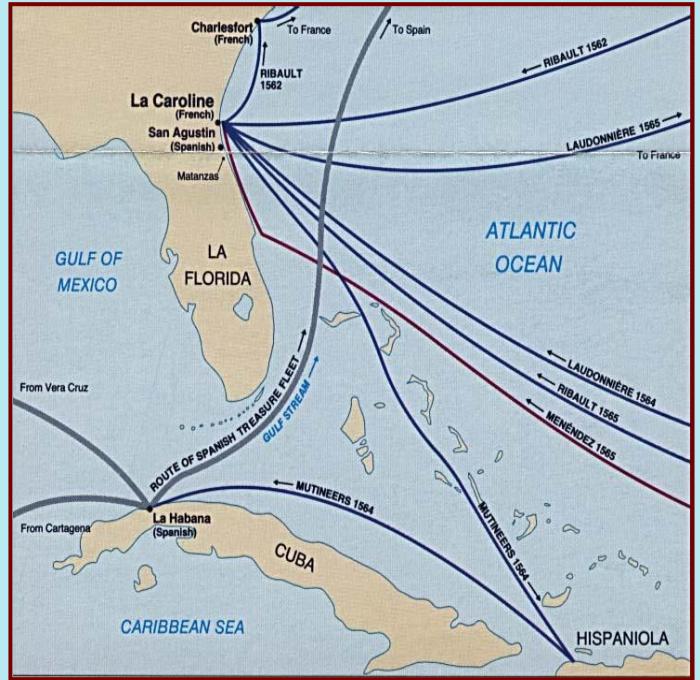
**Jacques Le Moyne's map of**

Southeastern coasts of Americas and Cuba. Published by Théodore de Bry in Frankfurt in 1591



<http://floridamemory.com/items/show/254239>  
**FORT CAROLINE, MAYPORT 1562**

Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues' watercolors.  
 Engravings published by Theodor de Bry in Grand Voyages (1591)



**16<sup>th</sup> Century sailing routes**



**Fort Caroline National Memorial**

**A reconstruction of the 1564 French Fort, Jacksonville, Fl.**



**Issued in 1924, the stamp depicts the Ribault Monument in Mayport, commemorating the landing of the Huguenots on May 1, 1562.**

<http://www.jaxhistory.com/mystery->

**Heritage Festival a celebration of Mayport's beginnings May 1, 1562**

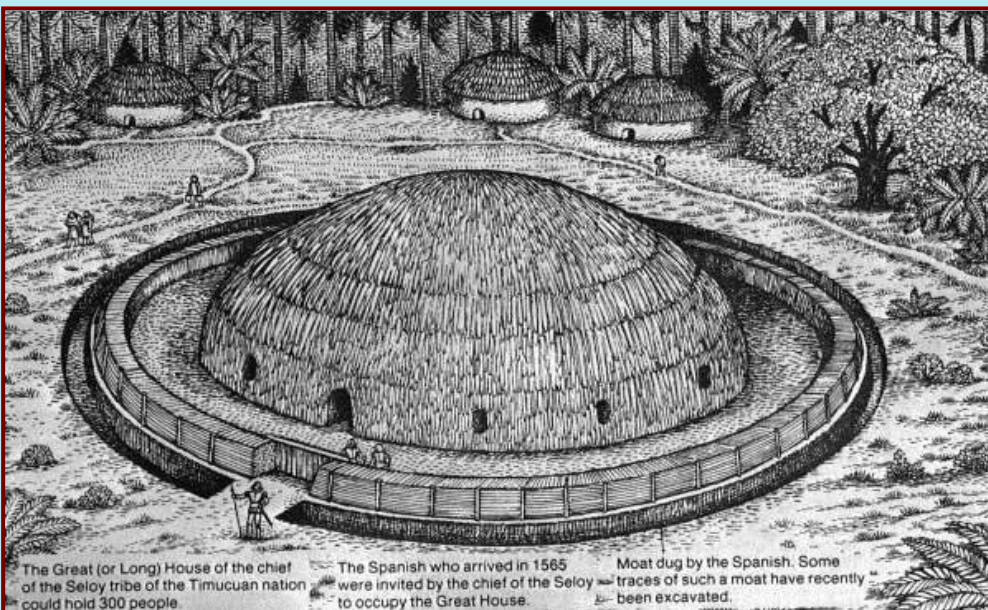
<http://jacksonville.com/community/shorelines/2012-04-14/story/heritage-festival-celebration-mayports-beginnings>

**History Wing** By James P. Buckner

<http://www.marion.k12.fl.us/district/srm/docs/MuseumsExhibitsHistoryWing.pdf>

**Founding of St. Augustine, Florida** Original Source: "The Founding of St. Augustine." In *Old South Leaflets* Volume IV. Boston: Directors of the Old South work. Old South Meeting House. This is a journal by Francisco López de Mendoza Grajales 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

[http://mith.umd.edu/eada/html/display.php?docs=lopez de mendoza staugustine.xml&action=show](http://mith.umd.edu/eada/html/display.php?docs=lopez%20de%20mendoza%20staugustine.xml&action=show)



Longhouse of the Seloy tribe of the Timucuan nation.  
 Photonegative of a drawing by Albert Manucy for the NY Times  
<http://floridamemory.com/items/show/7990>

Drawing of Pedro Menéndez de Aviles  
 Portrait by Francisco de Paula Martí, 1791  
<http://floridamemory.com/items/show/24903>

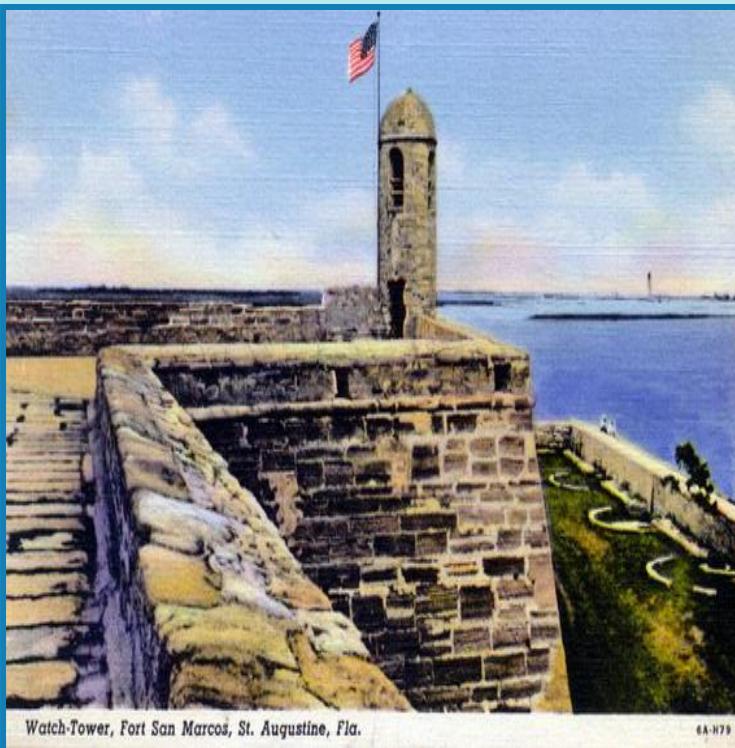
Menéndez entered the harbor he named San Agustín on August 28, 1565. He later led the massacre of French colonists near the mouth of the St. Johns River at Fort Caroline.

First permanent European settlement in the United States

The Great House/Menendez Fort was the first permanent European settlement in the United States. Pedro Menendez de Aviles destroyed the French settlement at Fort Caroline in 1565 and then moved his people to the Saint Augustine area where the Seloy tribe of the Timucuan nation had a settlement. The chief gave the Great House, a huge probably circular or oval thatched structure capable of holding several hundred people, to them. Around this meeting house the Spanish dug a moat and added fortifications of a breastwork and wooden palisade, to protect the munitions and stores.

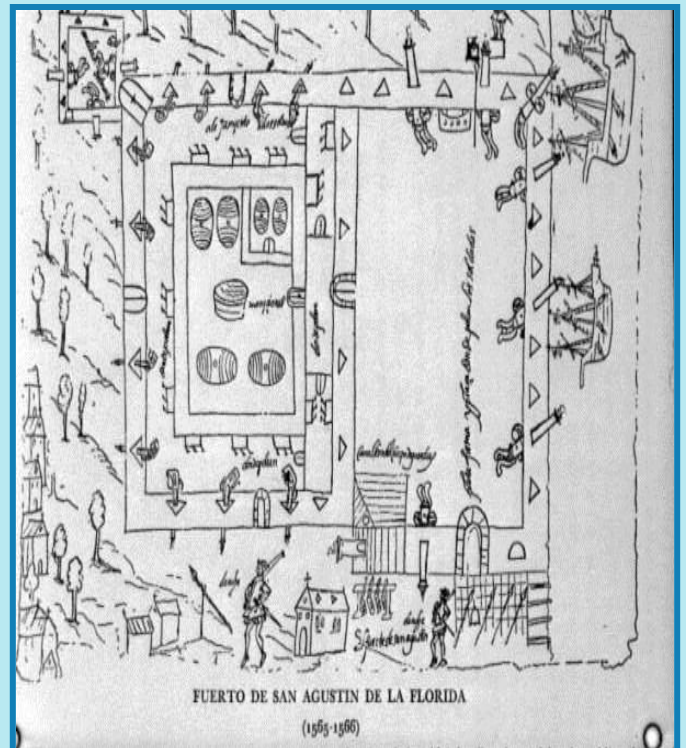
Menéndez de Avilés, Pedro,  
1519-1574--Portraits

Entered harbor which he called San Augustin on August 28, 1565. Afterward captured Fort Caroline, which then became San Mateo and massacred French forces of shipwrecked Jean Ribaut on Anastasia Island.



Watch-tower, Fort San Marcos  
Saint Augustine, Florida

<http://floridamemory.com/items/show/161334>



Plan of Castillo de San Marcos 1566

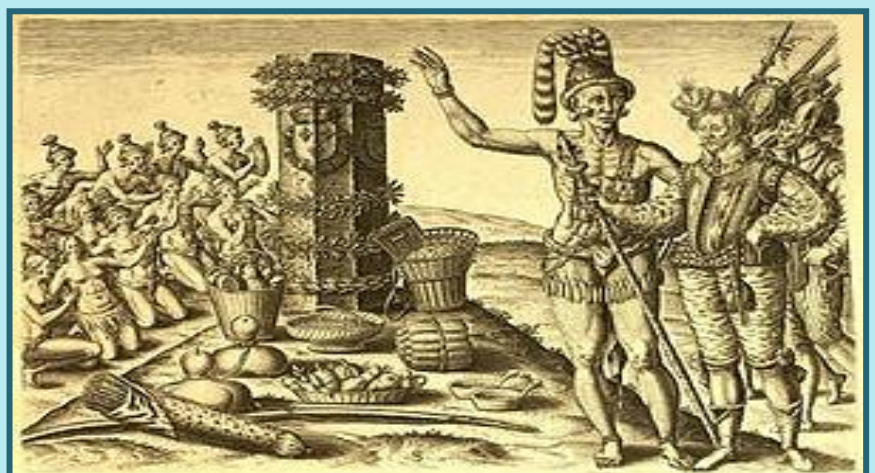
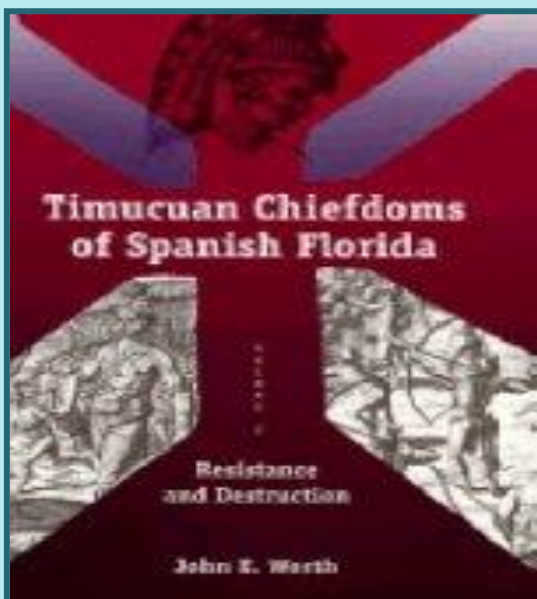
<http://floridamemory.com/items/show/3223>

**Fontaneda's Memoir** By Jerry Wilkinson *Hernando D'Escalante Fontaneda wrecked on "Florida" at age 13 in 1549/50, lived 17 years with the Calusa Indians, rescued at age 30 (1566).* <http://www.keyshistory.org/Fontanada.html>

**CHAPTER 7. SECOND SPANISH PERIOD, 1783-1821** (including First Seminole War 1810-1818)  
<http://www.vernonjohns.org/nonracists/jxspfla2.html>

**Influence of France on Florida** (*English Florida and Second Spanish Florida*) By Jerry Wilkinson  
<http://www.keyshistory.org/FL-Fla-Fr.html>

**The Timucuan Chiefdoms of Spanish Florida: Assimilation** By John E. Worth. 1998 Page 323.  
The failure of Spanish Florida. <http://archive.org/stream/timucuanmissions00wort#page/n0/mode/2up>



Jacques le Moyne's drawing of Athore, son of the Timucuan chief Saturiwa, showing Rene Laudonniere a monument placed by Jean Ribault.

**Le Moyne Gallery - College of Education, University of South Florida © 2002.**

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/photos/native/lemoyne/lemoyne1/lemoy1.htm>

**Théodore de Bry, Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues, and the Timucua Indians**

<http://international.loc.gov/intldl/fiahtml/fiatheme1d1.html>

**Spanish Florida – Conquest and Defense 1700-1763** By the Department of Military Affairs – THE HOME OF THE FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD. [http://dma.myflorida.com/?page\\_id=412](http://dma.myflorida.com/?page_id=412)

*History of the United States from the earliest discoveries* BY MARCIUS WILLSON New York **1859**

**PART I CHAPTER II RIBAUT, LAUDONNIERE AND MELENDEZ DE AVILES Page 30**

<http://books.google.com/books?id=v2gAAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

**William Bartram – Naturalist (1739-1823)** from Florida Museum of Natural History

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/naturalists/bartramw01.htm>

**Guide to Florida by George Washington Olney 1873**

<http://archive.org/stream/guidetoflorida00olne#page/n11/mode/2up>

**An excellent overview of the St. Johns River**, Basins, Pre-Columbian people, Colonial Era, Territorial Florida and Statehood, Land Boom, and Restoration [http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/St. Johns River](http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/St._Johns_River)

[http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/East Florida](http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/East_Florida)

(This is a history of East Florida, not astronomy.)

**“FLORIDA – Its Scenery, Climate and History”** By Sidney Lanier, 1875 Chapter VII Pages 54 - 68

Numerous illustrations. <http://books.google.com/books/about/Florida.html?id=y3UzAAAAAAAJ>

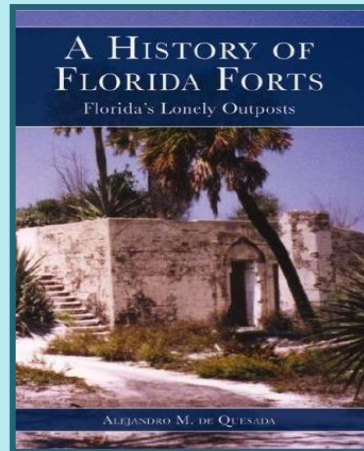
**A HISTORY OF FLORIDA FORTS:**

**Florida's Lonely Outposts** By A. M. De Quesada

**Page 29 2006**

Fort Caroline: Pages 30-36

Fort Matanzas: Pages 42-47



<http://books.google.com/books?id=OIzrpCZqfdMC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

**Florida Civil War – Heritage Trail - Northeast Region** By Florida Dept. of State, Division of Historical Resources. Page 50 <http://www.flheritage.com/preservation/trails/civilwar/civilwar.pdf>

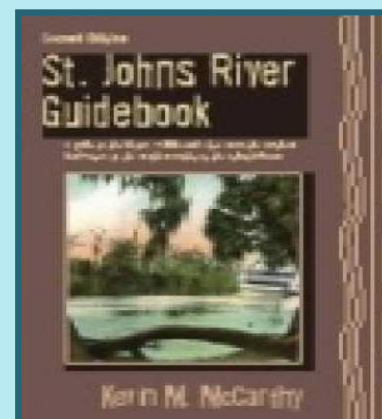
Excerpt from "**Camp Life in Florida; A Handbook for Sportsmen and Settlers.**" 1876 Chapter 19. Compiled by Charles Hallock, published by Forest and Stream Publishing Company. American News Company, Agents. <http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/docs/s/steayct.htm>

**The Winter Sailor: Francis R. Stebbins on Florida's Indian River, 1878-1888** Page XVII onward.

**River of Lakes: A Journey on Florida's St. Johns River** By Bill Belleville 2000

**St. Johns River Guidebook** By Kevin M. McCarthy, 1992

A fascinating trip in a small boat that begins in the swampy waters of St. Johns Marsh and floats downriver to Mayport detailing the history of the towns along the River.



<http://books.google.com/books?id=-bwFUtsfAEMC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

**Astor, Florida – A History of the St. Johns River** [http://www.astorflorida.com/st\\_johns/st\\_johns.htm](http://www.astorflorida.com/st_johns/st_johns.htm)

**Descriptions of Basins** – By St. Johns River Water Management <http://www.sjrwm.com/waterbodies/>

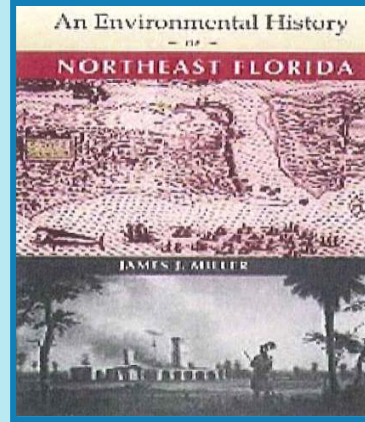
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